

the previous three years discloses striking variations under the following heads. In the import figures there is a decline of 43,000 tons in grains and pulse, and an increase of 9,000 tons in mineral oils and 2,500 tons in machinery. In the export trade there is an increase of 3,000 tons in cashew kernels and 40,000 tons in mineral sand. On the whole, there is reason to look forward with confidence to a steady increase in the trade of the port. During the month of May 1939, imported grain registered a rise of 10,000 tons over the average for the same period of last year. Oil discloses an increase of 3,000 tons over the average for the past three years. The combined imports and exports for the month showed an increase of 12,000 tons over the average for the past three years.

RECRUITMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES

11. It is nearly three years since the Staff Selection Board for recruitment to public services was constituted. At the time of the inauguration of this scheme it was the intention of Government that the whole position should be reviewed after three years of the working of the Board. I have reason to think that, on the whole, the rules that we framed for guiding the Board have worked successfully and that the legitimate claims of all the communities in the State have been fairly satisfied. Now and then complaints have been heard about the actual application of the rules by the Board or of certain defects in the rules themselves. I am fully aware of the fact that both the public at large and the Legislative Council are keenly interested in this scheme for recruitment to public services. I announced some time back in the Council that it is my intention to review the working of the Board with the help of a committee. Government have now decided to appoint a committee, consisting of four non-official members of the Council together with the Diwan Peishkar, to examine the working of the Staff Selection Board, and the rules made for recruitment. Messrs. K. Ayyappan, E. Ikkanda Warriar, V. J. Mathai and Ismail Haji Essa Sait have been invited to be members of this committee. The committee will begin their sittings about the middle of Chingam, and they are expected to submit their report to Government on or before the end of Thulam 1115. Government have deliberately constituted this committee consisting practically of non-officials, so that the whole working of the Board may be examined in a thorough manner. Government have nothing to hide in this matter, and they are only anxious to get suggestions which will improve the working of the Board to enable Government more effectively to carry out

the policy enunciated in clear terms about this matter. This Council knows full well that personally I am a great believer in the principle of communal justice in the matter of appointments to the public services. In fact, adequate representation to all the communities in the public services and in the legislatures is a cardinal article of my political faith. With my experience of over fifteen years as a politician and of nearly five years as an administrator, my faith in this direction has, if at all, become stronger. I am clear in my mind that the ideal of nationalism in India could be strongly implanted only by a fearless recognition of the principle of communal representation which is an inevitable corollary to the existing social order in India. It is the refusal to accept this inexorable fact of our political life that has led to communal bickerings and strife. The principle of communal representation in India is in no sense an antithesis to nationalism. Amidst the diversities of communities in India national unity can be achieved only by creating a sense of security and confidence in the minds of all the important communities. This confidence can be created in an effective manner only when all the communities feel that their political and civic liberties are adequately safeguarded in a manner consistent with the existing social order. Those who have studied the communal problem in India with an unprejudiced mind free from preconceived notions would realise that the communal problem is neither a religious problem nor even a minority problem. Individuals and communities in our country trot out their religion, not with a view to secure religious toleration and freedom of worship, but to assert their claim for a share in the political power and in the distribution of public offices. The problem, therefore, has nothing to do with religion at bottom. Neither is it merely a minority problem, because in many parts of India majority communities demand special safeguards to protect their interests. It is no use to brush aside this great problem with the contemptuous observation that the problem is created by a few job-hunters. After all, there is nothing dishonourable or undemocratic in an individual asking the State to give him some work to do. I am glad that, so far as this State is concerned, every community has accepted the supreme need for meting out communal justice. The unanimity with which resolutions, asking for communal representation, have been passed in this Council in previous years is a glowing testimony to the practical wisdom of the people of this State. It has been recognised on all hands that the bold recognition of this policy during the last three years has contributed more than any other factor to the peace and harmony that prevail in this State. I would invite the committee to examine the whole problem in an impartial manner, and the Government will gladly accept any suggestions intended to mete out equal justice to all classes of His Highness's subjects.